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FARM FACTS

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TENNESSEE HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Tennessee's total hog and pig inventory declined for the fifth consecutive year to a historically low 250,000 head on December 1, 1999. This was a decrease of 17 percent from December 1, 1998 and the smallest inventory since records began in 1867. Due to high cost of production and poor returns, numerous small and medium-sized operations went out of business, mostly in the December to June time frame. During the last half of 1999, prices have shown some stability but remained relatively low. Barrow and gilt prices have ranged from a low of $15.00 per cwt. in December 1998 to the twenties in the Spring and finally settling for the rest of the year in the low-to-mid thirties. The December 1, 1999 inventory breakdown is as follows: Breeding hogs, 30,000 head, down 25 percent from 1998; market hogs, 220,000 head, down 15 percent from1998. Weight group comparisons show pigs weighing less than 60 pounds were 42 percent below December 1, 1998; 60 - 119 pounds, up 9 percent; 120 - 179 pounds, unchanged; 180 pounds and over, up 11 from December 1, 1998.

1999 FARROWINGS AND PIG CROP

Tennessee producers farrowed 54,000 sows from December 1998 through November 1999, compared to 80,000 sows which farrowed during the same period a year earlier. This is a direct result of operations going out of business and some cut-backs by existing producers. Tennessee's annual litter rate of 8.07 was slightly below 1998's annual rate of 8.18. This excellent rate produced a pig crop of 436,000 head, which was off a third from the pig crop this time the previous year.

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PLACES WITH HOGS DOWN 23 PERCENT

During 1999, there were 1,700 operations with one or more hogs on Tennessee farms, a record low. This compares with 2,200 in 1998 and 5,500 just five years ago.

HOGS AND PIGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, TENNESSEE, DECEMBER 1, 1990-1999

Year	Dec. 1 Inventory	Breeding	Market	Under 60 lbs	60 to 119 lbs	120 to 179 lbs	180 + lbs
			1,000 Head				
1990	620	90	530	210	130	110	80
1991	670	90	580	225	150	115	90
1992	600	85	515	195	120	110	90
1993	500	70	430	150	115	100	65
1994	580	75	505	190	115	110	90
1995	500	65	435	170	102	92	71
1996	400	51	349	129	85	71	64
1997	340	45	295	115	75	60	45
1998	300	40	260	120	55	40	45
1999	250	30	220	70	60	40	50

HOGS AND PIGS FARROWING AND PIG CROP, TENNESSEE, DEC. - NOV. 1990-1999

Year	Sows Farrowing	% Prev. Year	Pigs Per Litter	% Prev Year	Pig Crop	% Prev. Year
	1,000		Rate		1,000	
1990	142	76	7.75	101	1,101	77
1991	151	106	7.50	97	1,132	103
1992	145	96	7.67	102	1,112	98
1993	127	88	7.43	97	943	85
1994	127	100	7.69	104	976	103
1995	117	92	7.91	103	926	95
1996	97	83	7.88	100	764	83
1997	73	75	8.16	104	596	78
1998	80	110	8.18	100	654	110
1999	54	68	8.07	99	436	67

U.S. HOGS AND PIGS

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below September 1, 1999. Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998, and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, and 1 percent less than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.66 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1997. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 7 percent of the operations and 69 percent of the inventory. This is the fourth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at 2,005 accounted for 46.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 42 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory up from 23 percent last year.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 2 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease. Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1999, WITH COMPARISONS

Commodity	Unit	TENNESSEE December 1998	TENNESSEE November 1999[2]	TENNESSEE December 1999	UNITED STATES December 1998	UNITED STATES November 1999[2]	UNITED STATES December 1999
		Dollars Per Unit					
FIELD CROPS							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.58	2.48	2.25	2.68	2.42	2.18
Corn	bu.	2.28	2.14	2.20	2.00	1.70	1.72
Cotton Lint	lb.	.593	.427	.420[3]	.606	.447	.436[3]
Cottonseed	ton	135.00	80.00	---	138.00	94.00	99.00
Sorghum	cwt.	2.24	---	---	2.94	2.58	2.60
Soybeans	bu.	5.66	4.59	4.60	5.37	4.45	4.29
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS							
All hogs	cwt.	39.90	31.20	[4]	14.70	33.40	35.40
Sows	cwt.	33.20	24.00	[4]	12.10	24.80	25.60
Barrow & gilts	cwt.	40.60	32.00	[4]	14.80	33.80	35.80
All beef cattle	cwt.	47.60	56.40	58.60	56.80	66.20	66.40
Steers/heifers	cwt.	60.50	74.00	77.00	60.30	70.90	70.80
Cows	cwt.	28.30	30.00	31.00	30.80	33.60	34.70
Calves	cwt.	69.30	83.00	89.00	80.20	93.00	97.80
All milk	cwt.	18.70	17.90	15.60	18.00	14.30	12.40
Fluid grade	cwt.	18.70	18.00	---	18.10	14.40	12.40
Manufactured grade	cwt.	16.10	9.30	---	17.40	11.00	10.70

[1] Entire month. [2] Mid-month. [3] Based on purchases first half of month. [4] Dropped from monthly Prices Received for Hogs beginning December 1999.

COTTON GINNINGS: RUNNING BALES GINNED, PRIOR TO DECEMBER 15, 1996-1999

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned 1996	Running Bales Ginned 1997	Running Bales Ginned 1998	Running Bales Ginned 1999
All Cotton				

Alabama	712,100	468,900	524,600	595,550
Arizona	666,350	615,350	410,550	509,350
Arkansas	1,570,100	1,611,550	1,172,250	1,388,400
California	2,302,800	2,398,350	1,281,900	1,793,100
Florida	114,050	102,400	64,450	104,450
Georgia	1,873,250	1,546,900	1,350,850	1,392,400
Louisiana	1,291,750	1,000,950	652,350	918,600
Mississippi	1,813,600	1,757,100	1,393,000	1,678,800
Missouri	551,900	545,500	337,500	450,500
New Mexico	80,350	67,600	55,200	54,350
North Carolina	886,000	825,700	1,001,000	718,600
Oklahoma	85,350	162,650	122,900	116,600
South Carolina	416,900	356,500	326,600	249,400
Tennessee	**658,200**	**641,450**	**529,500**	**573,850**
Texas	3,373,750	4,434,000	3,202,200	4,257,950
Virginia	131,300	127,650	133,550	125,900
United States	16,527,750	16,662,400	12,558,400	14,927,800

[1] Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

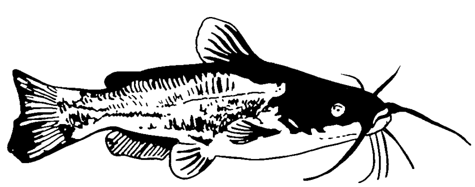
U.S. CATFISH PROCESSING UP

Farm-raised catfish processed during November totaled 48.1 million pounds round weight, up 11 percent from November 1998. The average price paid to producers was 71.3 cents per pound for November 1999, down 0.3 cents from last month, but 1.3 cents above a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during November 1999 totaled 22.3 million pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable month in 1998. Sales of fresh fish, at 8.68 million pounds, were up 4 percent from November 1998 and represented 39 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 13.7 million pounds, were up 3 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 61 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 19 percent of the total fish sold, fillets accounted for 61 percent, and the remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

The November 1999 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was $2.20 per pound, up 4 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were $1.59 per pound, up 3 cents from last year. Prices for fresh fillets were up 9 cents to $2.84 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged $2.45 per pound, up 12 cents from November 1998. Prices for frozen whole fish were up 6 cents to $2.02, while frozen fillets at $2.77 per pound were up 15 cents from a year ago.

Freshwater catfish imports for October 1999 totaled 217 thousand pounds, significantly more than the amount imported in October 1998. Vietnam accounted for 83 percent, Brazil 13 percent, and 4 percent were from Thailand. Exports reported for October 1999 totaled 19.3 thousand pounds, of which 92 percent went to Germany and 8 percent to Hong Kong. Import and export data are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Census.



NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION: U.S. egg production totaled 7.02 billion during November 1999, up 4 percent from the 6.72 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.96 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 997 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1999 averaged 328 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during November 1998. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,139 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,109 eggs in November 1998.

LAYERS AND EGGS: LAYERS ON HAND AND EGGS PRODUCED BY STATE

AND UNITED STATES, DURING NOVEMBER 1998-1999 FOR SELECTED STATES

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers [1]		Eggs per 100 for All Layers [1]	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	4,437	3,658	11,085	10,600	1,967	1,943
Arkansas	4,428	4,990	14,574	15,550	1,859	1,878
Georgia	12,198	11,833	21,649	21,037	2,042	2,096
North Carolina	3,783	3,647	11,332	11,339	1,915	1,870
All Other States [2]	230,510	239,766	260,157	269,560	2,143	2,177
United States	255,356	263,894	318,797	328,086	2,109	2,139

[1] Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. [2] Tennessee included in other states.

U.S. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in November, up 4 percent from the previous record high for November set in 1995 and up 5 percent from the 3.72 billion pounds produced in November 1998. November 1998 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. November 1999 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER[1]: UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1998-1999

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,773	2,943	3,356,978	3,579,187	1,211	1,216
Calves	112	104	31,975	31,280	285	300
Hogs	8,809	8,898	2,299,611	2,329,416	261	262
Sheep & lambs	298	329	38,710	43,526	130	132

[1] Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).